

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A method for operating a user station configured for communications with a multiplicity of independently-operated data sources via a non-proprietary network includes steps of receiving a first data object from one of the data sources, and automatically pre-fetching a plurality of additional data objects of arbitrary type referenced by the first data object from respective other ones of the independently-operated data sources identified by information embedded in the first data object. Corresponding software is also described.

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